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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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UNITED STATES.

REPORTS TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McCoy reports, April 19:

ANTIPLAGUE MEASURES IN CALIFORNIA.

The work of the service in California is being carried on along two lines: First, the trapping and poisoning of rats in San Francisco and Oakland, for the purpose of learning promptly of the presence of plague if it occurs among these rodents; second, the determination of the extent of the squirrel-plague infection, and the inauguration of methods of squirrel eradication. As the second matter is of immediate interest and importance a statement of the service work is presented first.

Extent of Squirrel Infection.

The extent of the work thus far done is shown by the following table:

Counties worked and infection found.

County.	Squirrels found in- fected.	Squirrels examined.
Alameda.....	76	6,204
Contra Costa.....	242	26,934
Santa Clara.....	9	2,776
San Benito.....	1	583
San Luis Obispo.....	1	4,108
Santa Cruz.....	1	684
Los Angeles.....	a 1	b 4,722
Total.....	331	46,011

a In 1908.

b In 1908-9.

Counties worked but no infection found.

County.	Squirrels examined.
Merced.....	7,600
Stanislaus.....	461
Mariposa.....	683
Santa Barbara.....	3,311
Madera.....	754
San Joaquin.....	1,001
Monterey.....	5,615
Tulare.....	5,652
Kern.....	320
Riverside.....	4
Colano.....	225
Fresno.....	9,519
San Mateo.....	1,224
Ventura.....	2,000
Total.....	38,369

Grand total of squirrels examined, 84,380.

No case of squirrel plague has been found upon the peninsula of San Francisco.

In regard to the Los Angeles squirrel, there is some doubt as to whether or not this rodent represents a part of the general infection or was the result of the importation of one infected rat or squirrel from the outside. The squirrel was found adjacent to the yard of a railroad running to San Francisco and some of the officers on the ground expressed the opinion that the infection was imported by rail. The fact that over 4,000 squirrels from Los Angeles and vicinity were examined without the finding of other infected squirrels indicates that this may have been the case.

The work of outlining the infected area continues, and we hope to be able to learn definitely how widespread the infection is.

Squirrel Extermination.

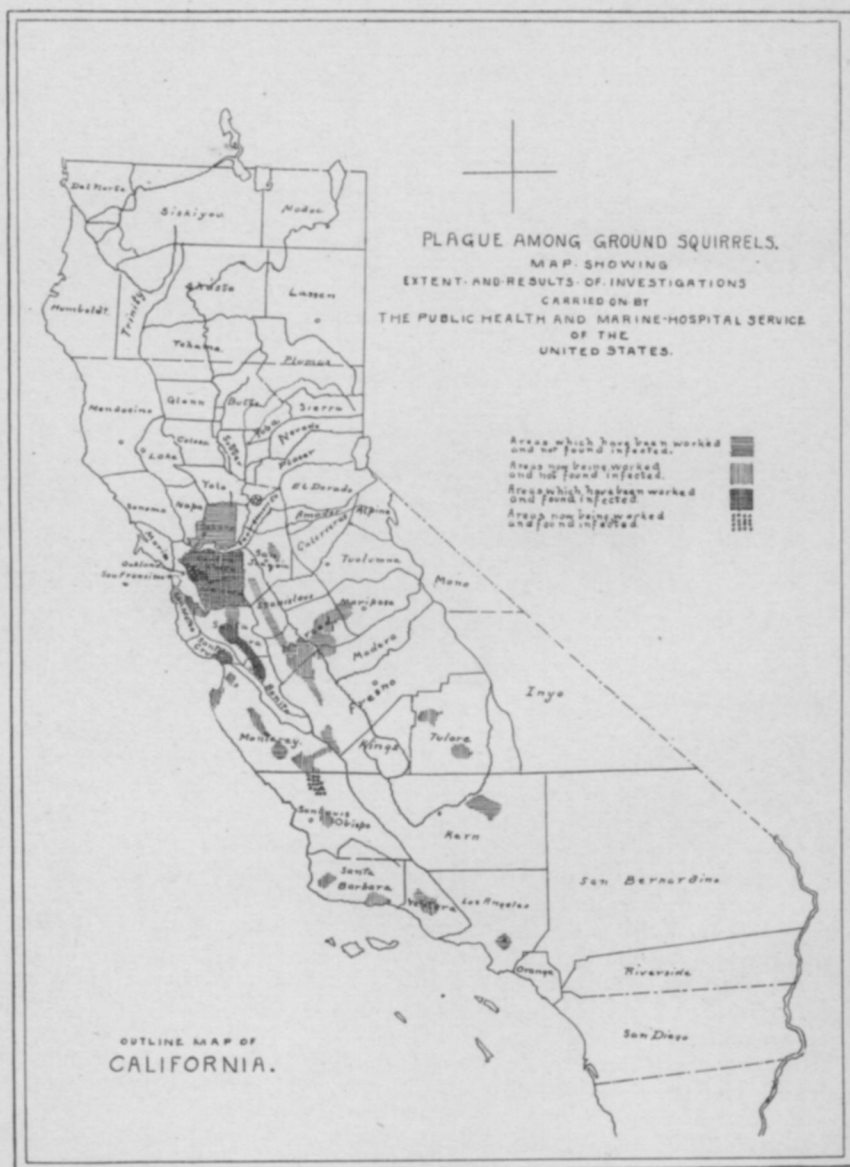
Some measures in the way of squirrel extermination have already been undertaken, as follows:

Distribution of poison.—Poison was distributed to 840 farmers. This poison was used with advantage, but the fund available was too small to make it feasible to carry on the work extensively enough to make the measure of much value in relation to the whole squirrel-plague problem.

On account of the danger of infection of the cities, an attempt is being made to create a squirrel-free zone around Oakland and Berkeley. Bisulphide of carbon is being used and this agent is reported to be very efficient, but very expensive, the average cost per acre, where the squirrels are numerous, being 50 cents for poison alone and about \$2 for labor. Poisoned grain has been used to a less extent. This is also very efficient, and has the advantage of being much cheaper than the bisulphide, but it has the disadvantage of killing birds.

The total area of the counties we know to be infected is 5,331,440 acres. From this it will be understood that the cost will be very heavy.

It is planned to have the ranches that have been found infected worked first.



Rat Work.

The rat work is being carried on in San Francisco and in Oakland. No infected rodent has been found in either city for over eighteen months, but with the menace of squirrel plague before us, it is deemed unsafe to discontinue the rat extermination and examination.

Scientific Work.

The service laboratory in San Francisco and the branch laboratory in Oakland are being used in the pursuit of such scientific investigations of plague among rodents as seem to be demanded.

The volume of routine work in these laboratories is enormous. A total of over 340,000 rats and squirrels have been examined during the past thirty months. About 160,000 were examined during the past year.

Cost of Work.

The total number of employees of the service on duty in California in connection with the epidemic work is 100. Four of these are commissioned medical officers.

The sum being expended monthly by the service is a trifle under \$11,000. The State is expending about \$1,000 per month. This is being used on the squirrel work and is expended under the direction of the service officers.

Doctor McCoy further reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened January 30, 1908. Last case of rodent plague trapped October 23, 1908. Total number of rats found infected to date, 398.

Week ended April 16, 1910. Premises inspected, 848. Houses destroyed, 17. Buildings condemned, 7. Nuisances abated, 69. Poisons placed 7,980. Rats trapped, 2,190. Rats found dead, 25. Gophers trapped, 4. Rats identified, 2,215, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 1,685; *Mus rattus*, 87; *Mus musculus*, 378; *Mus alexandrinus*, 65. Average number of traps set daily, 7,500. Examined bacteriologically, 1,841 rats and 4 gophers. No plague infection found.

BERKELEY, CAL.

There is no record of rodent plague in Berkeley. The last case of human plague sickened August 28, 1907.

Week ended April 16, 1910. Rats trapped, 5. Rats identified, 5, all being *Mus norvegicus*. Rats examined bacteriologically, 5. No plague-infected rats found.

OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened October 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague found December 1, 1908.

Week ended April 16, 1910. Rats found dead, 17. Rats trapped, 668. Rats identified, 685, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 583; *Mus rattus*, 1; *Mus musculus*, 101. Rats examined bacteriologically, 540. No plague-infected rats found.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (Exclusive of the city of Oakland).

Last case of human plague sickened 2 miles southwest of Sunol, September 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague found March 25, 1910. To the present time 76 ground squirrels and 1 wood rat have been found infected.

Week ended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 7. Ground squirrels shot, 93. Ground squirrels found dead, 6. Acres covered with poison, 112. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 99. No plague-infected squirrels found.

FRESNO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Fresno County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 28. Ground squirrels shot, 820. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 813. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Merced County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 10. Ground squirrels shot, 317. Rabbits shot, 14. Examined bacteriologically, 314 squirrels and 14 rabbits. No plague infection found.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Monterey County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 29. Ground squirrels shot, 297. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 291. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in San Luis Obispo County. A plague-infected rodent was found January 29, 1910.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 14. Ground squirrels shot, 220. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 217. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Mateo County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 7. Ground squirrels shot, 170. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 167. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Santa Barbara County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 12. Ground squirrels shot, 160. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 156. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Clara County. A plague-infected rodent was found November 3, 1909. Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date, 9.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 3. Ground squirrels shot, 60. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 60. No plague-infected squirrels found.

TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Tulare County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 8. Ground squirrels shot, 361. Rabbits shot, 1. Examined bacteriologically, 358 squirrels and 1 rabbit. No plague infection found.

VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Ventura County.

Weekended April 16, 1910. Ranches inspected, 11. Ground squirrels shot, 71. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 71. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.**Reports Received During Week Ended May 6, 1910.**

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Birmingham.....	Apr. 17-23.....	3	.....
Mobile.....	Apr. 17-23.....	2	.....
Montgomery.....	Apr. 17-23.....	9	.....
California:				
Los Angeles.....	Apr. 10-16.....	2	.....
District of Columbia.....	Apr. 17-23.....	5	.....
Florida:				
Alachua County.....	Apr. 16-23.....	1	.....
Duval County.....	Apr. 16-23.....	1	.....
Santa Rosa County.....	Apr. 16-23.....	5	.....
Georgia:				
Columbus.....	Apr. 17-23.....	1	1	
Louisiana:				
New Orleans.....	Apr. 17-23.....	17	.....
Minnesota, general	Jan. 1-31.....	.....	1	
Montgomery County.....	Jan. 1-31.....	.....	1	
Missouri:				
St. Louis.....	Apr. 17-23.....	1	.....
Pennsylvania (entire State)	Mar. 1-31.....	40	.....
Tennessee:				
Chattanooga.....	Apr. 17-23.....	3	.....
Knoxville.....	Apr. 17-23.....	3	.....
Memphis.....	Apr. 17-23.....	9	.....
Nashville.....	Apr. 17-23.....	1	.....
Virginia:				
Norfolk.....	Apr. 19-23.....	1	.....	At Craney Island quarantine station from the s. s. Pocahontas.